

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 642

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, :&, TZ

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR BIO INFORMATION, MOHAMMED ALI FOUM

REF: KINSHASA 957 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON MOHAMMED ALI FOUM, RECENTLY GRANTED AGREEMENT AS TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, WAS PREPARED WHEN FOUM WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO ITALY IN DECEMBER 1974, AND INCLUDED IN OUR TELEGRAM 102 OF JANUARY 10, 1975. AMEMBASSY ROME MAY HAVE FURTHER AND MORE RECENT INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO KINSHASA.

2. FOUM, A ZANZIBARI WITH A HISTORY OF LEFT-WING MILITANCY, WAS BORN IN ZANZIBAR JUNE 4, 1936, OF COMORIAN PARENTAGE. PRIOR TO ZANZIBAR'S INDEPENDENCE, HE WAS FOLLOWER OF A.M. BABU'S LEFT-WING FACTION IN ZANZIBAR NATIONALIST PARTY (ZNP), AND HE LEFT ZANZIBAR (ABANDONING WITHOUT LEAVE POST OF LABOR OFFICER IN PEMBA) TO JOIN ZNP OFFICE IN HAVANA, CUBA, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL 1964 ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION. HE THEN RETURNED HOME AND AFTER UNION OF TANGANYIKA AND ZANZIBAR JOINED NEW TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. FOUM SERVED ON TANZANIAN PERMANENT UN DELEGATION 1964-69, DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY VIRULENTLY ANTI-COLONIALIST SPEECHES ON "COMMITTEE OF 24" AND UNDISGUISED COLLUSION WITH SOVIET BLOC DELEGATIONS; HE ALSO SOUGHT ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN BLACK MILITANT GROUPS. IN 1969 FOUM RETURNED DAR ES SALAAM AS DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN DIVISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND

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HE WAS MEMBER OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATIONS IN 1969, 1970,

AND 1971. HE SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS COUNSELLOR OF EMBASSY IN PEKING (1972-73) AND ADDIS ABABA (1973-1974).

3. FOUM MARRIED LYDIA FOUM (B. AUGUST 3, 1943, UNITED STATES) WHILE IN CUBA; WIFE IS NOW TANZANIAN CITIZEN. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN. FOUM IS KNOWN TO HAVE LEARNED SPANISH DURING HIS CUBAN RESIDENCE.

4. COMMENT: FOUM'S FORMER MENTOR BABU IS NOW IN JAIL UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH IN THE 1974 ZANZIBAR TREASON TRIAL, DURING WHICH FOUM HIMSELF WAS LOOSELY IMPLICATED. IT IS PROBLEMATICAL WHETHER IT WOULD BE HEALTHY FOR HIM TO RETURN TO ZANZIBAR, AND THUS INTERESTING THAT HE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PROMOTION IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.
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